

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NONACADEMIC MEASURES REMAIN GENERALLY STABLE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Data from the 2007-08 school year show that Kentucky's public school students had higher graduation rates than those in the 2006-07 school year, and dropout rates increased slightly during the same time period.

The graduation rate increased from 83.72 percent in 2007 to 84.52 percent in 2008. Kentucky began reporting graduation rate data with the 2000-01 school year to comply with requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Because NCLB requires that graduation rates not include students who received certificates of completion and those who took longer than four years to graduate, a more rigid formula to determine the rates was adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education in 2002. The 2001 and 2002 rates include students who received certificates of completion and those who took longer than four years to graduate. Rates collected after those years include only those students who finished high school within four years and those students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) that allow more than four years to graduate.

The overall high school dropout rate increased slightly, from 3.17 percent in 2007 to 3.30 percent in 2008. In grades 9-12, 314 more students dropped out in 2008 than in 2007. Dropout rates for nearly all ethnic groups rose slightly from 2007 to 2008.

The school retention rate -- the percentage of students held back a grade -- decreased slightly, from 3 percent to 2.55 percent. School attendance rates also decreased slightly, from 94.18 percent to 94.17 percent.

The rate of successful transition to adult life decreased slightly from 2007 to 2008, and the percentage of public high school graduates who went on to college increased, from 54.3 percent in 2007 to 55.1 percent in 2008.

(more)

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COMPARISONS OF NON-ACADEMIC DATA - STATEWIDE RATES

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Attendance	94.15%	94.43%	94.31%	94.26%	94.31%	94.60%	94.18%	94.17%
Dropout (grades 9-12)	4.72%	3.93%	3.31%	3.34%	3.47%	3.34%	3.17%	3.30%
Graduation	79.72%	80.83%	79.15%	81.29%	82.86%	83.26%	83.72%	84.52%
Retention	3.67%	3.55%	3.38%	3.27%	3.30%	2.92%	3.00%	2.55%
Successful Transition	95.11%	95.67%	96.03%	96.00%	96.15%	96.07%	95.70%	95.27%

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES BY RACE AND GENDER

	MALE	FEMALE	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC	ASIAN	AMERICAN INDIAN	OTHER
2001	5.67%	3.73%	4.50%	6.83%	7.24%	3.26%	5.86%	2.98%
2002	4.63%	3.20%	3.78%	5.52%	5.96%	2.09%	1.64%	2.72%
2003	3.91%	2.75%	3.23%	4.45%	4.65%	1.80%	2.08%	2.29%
2004	3.91%	2.77%	3.22%	4.56%	4.77%	1.73%	5.32%	2.50%
2005	4.06%	2.86%	3.21%	5.75%	5.08%	1.39%	2.81%	3.38%
2006	3.91%	2.69%	3.03%	5.45%	6.11%	1.11%	2.64%	3.67%
2007	3.69%	2.64%	2.94%	4.77%	5.46%	1.22%	2.45%	3.96%
2008	3.78%	2.79%	2.88%	6.14%	6.10%	1.82%	4.28%	4.09%

Nonacademic data has been one component of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS), which was ended by the passage of Senate Bill 1 in the 2009 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. However, graduation rates are required to be reported under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, and schools and districts are held accountable for meeting annual goals for graduation rates through NCLB.

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